Policy on confirmed reservations

1163. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some airlines, particularly private airlines, do not honour their confirmed reservations and put helpless passengers into great inconvenience;

(b) whether it is a fact that neither any compensation nor fresh confirmed booking is given; and

(c) whether Government have any policy to deal with such situations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There have been some complaints of this nature.

(b) Private airlines normally provide confirmed booking on the next available flight.

(c) Consumer Fora under the Consumer Protection Act have been set up by the Government for dealing with the complaints regarding deficiency in service. The services of air carriers are also covered by this machinery set up under the Consumer Protection Act.

Delay in commencement of work on International Airport at Devanahalli

1164. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) by when the work on the proposed Bangalore International Airport will commence;

(b) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has not cleared the "integrated air trafffic management plan" proposal;

(c) whether the State Government of Karnataka has released a sum of Rs. 350 crore for the project as its share required under the State support agreement;

(d) whether the financial closure has been signed with the lenders to cover the projects' debt amount; and

(e) whether there is any proposal with Government to name Devanahalli International Airport after Tipu Sultan as Devanahalli is his birth place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The work on the proposed Bangalore International airport is likely to commence after the financial closure.

(b) Integrated air traffic management plan has already been approved.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Government has no such proposal at present.

National level airport in HP

†1165. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to construct a national level airport in Himachal Pradesh to further develop Himachal Pradesh from tours point of view;

(b) if so, by when alongwith the details of the outline;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government have also received a proposal in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The State Government has proposed construction of an airport at Sundarnagar in Himachal Pradesh with Airports Authority of India (AAI). The State Government and AA have decided to carry out a joint survey of the proposed site. Further process will be subject to the results of the joint survey.

New terminal at Thiruvananthapuram Airport

1166. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal seeking sanction for a project to construct a new terminal at Chakkai in Thiruvananthapuram International Airport is pending;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.